

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the following amendments to the specification, replacement paragraphs are submitted in accordance with the Office's revised policy regarding amendments effective January 31, 2003. The replacement paragraphs are marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version, where deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining.

On page 2, please delete the first two paragraphs and replace with the following two paragraphs:

A1
Currently, there are two popular home networking infrastructures. The first is phone line networking. To provide in-home networking of computers and computer peripherals without requiring home rewiring, as is usually required with standard Ethernet networks, the Home ~~Phone line~~ Phoneline Networking Alliance (HomePNA) was formed to leverage the existing phone lines in homes. More detailed information regarding the HomePNA can be found on the Internet at ~~www.homepna.com~~ http://www.homepna.org/. While phone line networking allows homeowners to create small local-area networks (LAN's) within their homes for the purposes of connecting computers and computer peripherals, it has limitations. Significantly, phone line networking typically does not allow homeowners to control appliances, lamps, and other power line devices within their homes.

A second home networking infrastructure is power line networking. Power line networking provides ubiquitous wired connectivity throughout the majority of homes. One type of power line networking is known as X10. X10 is a communications protocol that allows for remotely controlling power line devices, such as lamps and appliances. ~~More detailed~~

information regarding the X10 protocol can be found on the Internet at

~~ftp://ftp.scruz.net/users/cichlid/public/x10faq~~

On page 12, please delete the first full paragraph and replace with the following paragraph:

A²

FIG. 2 shows a diagrammatic topology of the automation system of FIG. 1, providing another view of the system. The automation system is called out as the system 200 in FIG. 2. The backbone network 202 is preferably an Ethernet network, implemented over a dedicated line or over the phone line 116 of FIG. 1. The system devices 204 include the devices 174, 176, 178, and 178 180. The devices 204 connect to the backbone network 202 through the network adapter 182. The device 174 is the gateway device that connects to the Internet connection 120. The user access points (UAP's) 206 include the UAP's 101, 103, and 105. The UAP's 206 are preferably directly connected to the backbone network 202. Likewise, the thermostat 160 is directly connected to the backbone network 202, whereas the water sensor 138 is connected to the backbone network 202 through the network adapter 140. The audio/video (A/V) devices 156 are connected to the A/V bridge 158, which is connected to the backbone network 202 through the network adapter 154. The A/V bridge 158 enables the A/V devices 156 to communicate with devices on the backbone network 202.

On page 13, please delete the first full paragraph and replace with the following paragraph:

AB The infrared (IR) bridge 188 is connected to the backbone network 202 through the network adapter 196, while the radio frequency (RF) bridge 144 is connected to the backbone network 202 through the network adapter 146. The IR bridge 188 enables the IR devices 212, such as the IR device ~~192~~ 190, to communicate with devices on the backbone network 202. Likewise, the RF bridge 144 enables the RF devices 214, such as the RF devices 142 and 148, to communicate with devices on the backbone network 202.

On page 17, please delete the first full paragraph and replace with the following paragraph:

AF FIG. 5 is a diagram 500 showing how one embodiment addresses an object 502 in two different ways. The object 502 can be one of the device objects 326 of FIG. 4, or one of the computation objects 406 of FIG. 4. The object 502 has one or more synchronous addresses ~~304~~ 504, and one or more asynchronous addresses ~~306~~ 506. The synchronous addresses 504 can include an address in the form of a marshaled distributed-object interface pointer, or another type of reference that enables real-time communication with the object 502. The asynchronous addresses ~~306~~ 506 can be in the form of a queue name, a marshaled handle to a queue, or other address. The asynchronous addresses ~~306~~ 506 are used to asynchronously communicate with the object 502 when it is temporarily unavailable or too busy, or when synchronous communication is otherwise not desired.